

# IMAGEN OF Boulder County

Issue #7

July 2006

## DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIPS IN COLORADO

Researched by Tony Tafoya



Above: Maria Decambra, Hispanic Outreach Coordinator for Coloradans for Fairness and Equality, giving a presentation to Boulder County Image members on July 13, 2006.

In an effort to reach Latinos in Boulder County and inform them about domestic partnerships, Maria Decambra has been scheduling informational meetings with various groups. She is also seeking support for Referendum I and encouraging participants to sign a petition that urges a yes vote for passing the Colorado Domestic Partner Referendum.

Ms. Decambra explained that the most basic legal rights and benefits automatically given to married couples are denied to same sex couples who live in long-term, committed partnerships. She said that a coalition of anti-gay national and statewide groups, including Focus on the Family, is proposing an amendment to the state Constitution that would ban same-sex marriage. She stressed that right now, same-sex marriage is already banned in Colorado under state law. She said that constitutions should be about

granting and protecting fundamental rights and responsibilities, not taking them away.

While Image members that were polled expressed a general support for granting rights to everyone, there were personal feelings that were expressed to favor an individual vote of conscience. Whatever their personal feelings on this issue, members were encouraged to vote.

A flyer that was passed out at the meeting contained information about domestic partnerships:

### **What is a Domestic Partnership?**

A domestic partnership is a registered legal contract between a same-sex couple that would provide many - but not all - of the protections and benefits that the state now provides to married couples. These benefits include rights to hospital visitation, health care and pension benefits, property, inheritance and others.

### **How is a domestic partnership different from marriage?**

A domestic partnership is simply a registered civil contract between committed same-sex couples. While it does provide the benefits, protections and responsibilities the state now offers to straight couples, there will remain more that 1,100 legal

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benefits provided by federal law that will be denied to gay couples - even if the state referendum is approved by voters.

### **Who is eligible?**

Any Colorado same-sex couple, at least 18 years of age, not currently party to another domestic partnership or marriage, who obtains a domestic partnership license from their local county clerk and recorder.

### **Would my church be required to get involved?**

No. The domestic partnership agreement is a civil agreement, obtained through county courthouses. Whether a particular faith community would wish to offer domestic partners the opportunity to receive a blessing, or a commitment ceremony, at a church, synagogue or mosque, would be solely at the discretion of the faith community.

### **What happens when couples split up?**

There will be a legal process in place to dissolve domestic partnerships similar to procedures now in place for divorce.

### **Doesn't this undermine marriage?**

No. A domestic partnership is not a marriage, and does not affect the right of opposite-sex couples to marry. It does not diminish the numerous benefits now available to heterosexual couples, nor does it discourage those couples from marrying.

### **What about common law marriage?**

Colorado is one of the few states left in the U.S. that still recognizes common-law marriages. Same-sex couples are not currently eligible and would not become eligible for common-law marriages even if the Domestic Partnership Referendum is enacted.

### **Would Colorado be the only state to legally recognize same-sex couples?**

No. Seven states and the District of Columbia have laws in place that give same-sex couples some degree of benefits similar to those provided to married couples.

### **Does a domestic partnership create responsibilities as well as rights?**

Yes. A domestic partnership is legally binding. It would require a legal process to dissolve, and it ensures that both individuals in the partnership, for example, have responsibility for children of that relationship.

### **Where can I go to get more information on Domestic Partnerships?**

Coloradans for Fairness and Equality  
1888 Sherman Street, Suite 570  
Denver, CO 80203  
Phone 303.860.7325  
Fax 303. 860.7328  
[www.FairEqual.org](http://www.FairEqual.org)

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# NUESTRO TALENTO

## CONSIDERANDO EN FRÍO ...

Considerando en frío, imparcialmente,  
que el hombre es triste, tose y, sin empargo,  
se complace en su pecho colorado;  
que lo único que hace es componerse  
de días;  
que es lóbrego mamífero y se peina...

Considerando  
que el hombre procede suavemente del trabajo  
y repercute jefe, suena subordinado;  
que el diagrama del tiempo  
es constante diorama en sus medallas  
y, a medio abrir, sus ojos estudiaron,  
desde lejanos tiempos,  
su fórmula famélica de masa...

Comprendiendo sin esfuerzo  
que el hombre se queda, a veces, pensando,  
como queriendo llorar,  
y, sujeto a tenderse como objeto,  
se hace buen carpintero, suda, mata  
y luego canta, almuerza, se abotona...

Considerando también  
que el hombre es en verdad un animal  
y, no obstante, al voltear, me da con su  
tristeza en la cabeza...

Examinando, en fin,  
sus encontradas piezas, su retrete,  
su desesperación, al terminar su día atroz,  
borrándolo...

Comprendiendo  
que él sabe que le quiero,  
que le odio con afecto y me es, en suma,  
indiferente...

Considerando sus documentos generales  
y mirando con lentes aquel certificado  
que prueba que nació muy pequeñito...

Le hago una seña,  
viene,  
y le doy un abrazo, emocionado.  
¡Qué más da! Emocionado ... Emocionado.

César Vallejo, Peru, *Poemas humanos*, 1939.

## II TIEMPO TIEMPO

Mediodía estancado entre relentes.  
Bomba aburrída del cuartel achica  
tiempo tiempo tiempo tiempo.

Era Era.

Gallos cancionan escarbando en vano.  
Boca del claro día que conjuga  
era era era era.

Mañana Mañana.

El reposo caliente aún de ser.  
Piensa el presente guárdame para  
mañana mañana mañana mañana.

Nombre Nombre.

¿Qué se llama cuanto heriza nos?  
Se llama Lomismo que padece  
nombre nombre nombre.

César Vallejo, Peru, *Trilce*, 1922.

## Publishers Notes from Colorado, National Image and Around the Country

The Denver *Noticiero* is a roundup of vacancy information. If you would like to submit vacancy announcements for publication, fax to Becky Rios at 303.497.7283, e-mail to [Becky.Rios@noaa.gov](mailto:Becky.Rios@noaa.gov) or mail to NOAA/OAR EEO Office, R/OMx3, 325 Broadway, Bldg. 22, Boulder, CO 80305. Becky's phone number is 303.497.6439. The Denver *Noticiero* is now on line at: <http://eoo.boulder.noaa.gov>. Click on Employment.

July 17-21—Federally Employed Women (FEW) 37th National Training Program, "New Connections—New Directions," will be held in Atlanta, Georgia at the Marriott Marquis Hotel. On line registration is now available at [www.fewntp.org](http://www.fewntp.org).

July 29-30—The 2006 Colorado Dragon Boat Festival will be held at Sloans Lake. The boat races are sponsored by the Denver Federal Executive Board and the Asian/Pacific Islander Program Committee. For more information contact Ms. C.J. Beasley at 303.676.7009.

August 21-25—Blacks In Government 28th National Training Conference, "Building Unity Through Excellence, Growth and Challenge," will be held in New York City, N.Y. For further information, visit website [www.bignet.org](http://www.bignet.org).

August 28-31—Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) 2006 Conference, "One People: A Diversity of Culture." will be held at the Hotel Captain Cook in Anchorage, Alaska. For more information and registration, visit [www.saige.org](http://www.saige.org).

### Vacancy Announcement

Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Office of Departmental Equal Employment Opportunity  
Announcement Number: RE-DEU 2006-0123  
Opening Date: Tuesday, July 18, 2006  
Closing Date: Tuesday, August 01, 2006  
Position: Equal Employment Specialist (EEO Counselor)  
Series and Grade: GS-260-12/13  
Duty Location: Washington, D.C. (1 vacancy)  
Remarks: Applications and supporting documents must be received by close of business (5 p.m.) on the closing date to:  
Dept. of HUD; 451 7th St. SW, Rm 2153;  
Attn: Dianne Wilkins; Washington, D.C. 20410

The Maritime Administration seeks a highly skilled and diverse pool of candidates for this senior executive financial position. Please share with anyone you deem qualified and interested.

Chief Financial Officer

Salary Range: \$109,808—\$165,200

Grade: ES- 0340

Open Period: Monday, July 17, 2006 to Friday, September 01, 2006

Position Information: Full-Time Permanent

Duty Location: 1 vacancy in Washington, D.C.

For information: Vontell D. Frost-Tucker

Director of Civil Rights, MAR-100.2

Maritime Administration, Room 7213

400 7th Street, SW

Washington, D.C. 20590

Phone: 202.366.3449 (Office)

202.366.5065 (Direct)

202.366.0112 (Fax)

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## *The Goals and Objectives of Boulder County Image*

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- A. To seek a broad development and expansion of employment opportunities for the aspirants among the Latino population.
- B. To assist and encourage the government services in providing the best possible circumstances for the recruitment, training, employment and advancement of Latinos.
- C. To encourage and actively support the promotion and advancement of Latinos already employed.
- D. To counter employment issues based on social, ethnic, religious, age and gender discrimination, direct or indirect.
- E. To analyze and determine the educational and professional needs of Latinos seeking entry and advancement in employment; and, whenever possible, provide appropriate training and counseling services to meet these needs – particularly among the youth.
- F. To establish and continually upgrade a broad basis of communications with Latino employees across the nation.
- G. To respond to the reasonable requests of non-members and groups whose problems, goals, and objectives are supportable within the By Laws of Boulder County Image.
- H. To enhance the promotion of ethnic pride, culture, and camaraderie through the organized and regular social gatherings which will serve to bind members together.
- I. To provide a non-partisan platform on major issues of local and national significance so that members may be better informed and may express their views.
- J. To expand the concept and objectives of National Image, Inc., to communities throughout the United States to provide maximum impact on the benefits derived from the pursuit of these goals and objectives as stated above.

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## Key Committee Functions

The key functions performed by Boulder County Image officers and members of standing committees include: **Advocacy on Employment and Education Issues; Membership and Outreach;** and **Consultation**. The President of Boulder County Image will assign members on an ad hoc basis as the need arises. The following is a brief description of each function:

### Advocacy on Employment and Education Issues

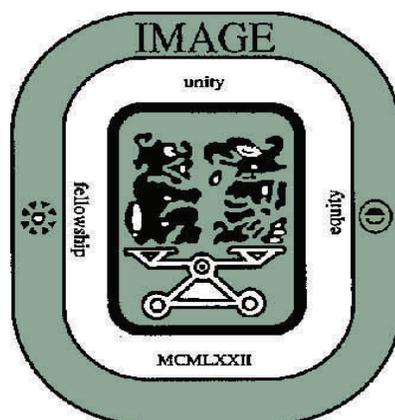
The advocacy function is performed when members take a pro-active role in seeing that a client's issue is addressed by the appropriate community, education or government organization. This function typically involves the following: Mediating an issue at the lowest level before it escalates; Negotiating issues on behalf of clients; Assisting local businesses with employee issues; Assisting students and parents with local school issues, e.g. fighting, drop out, and equal treatment policies; Educating the community on Latino issues; Researching legal information (not advice) on various employment topics; Accompanying clients (employees and applicants) and serving as their representative. Boulder County Image will monitor civil rights issues in the community and provide a community service by organizing Latinos and educating them on issues.

### Membership and Outreach

The membership committee is charged with an ongoing program of recruiting and retaining members. This committee coordinates a yearly membership drive for new members. The outreach function is performed by going out into the community to explain Image programs and communicating the assistance that can be provided. Typically, this function involves attending meetings and briefings, networking with agency representatives, providing orientation briefings to newcomers, attending training sessions and education workshops - both as participants and presenters.

### Consultation

Consultation services are typically provided to clients who are in need of explanations related to documents that need an interpretation and require follow up actions. Consultations are private.



**IMAGEN is a publication  
of**

Boulder County Image  
#348  
637-B South Broadway  
Boulder, CO 80305  
Phone 303.497.6439

IMAGEN seeks to inform Latinos  
on employment, education and  
civil rights issues.

Editor: Tony Tafoya

**MISSION**

*National Image, Inc. was established in 1972, to address Latino concerns in employment, education, and civil rights. Boulder County Image is an affiliate of National Image, Inc. and operates in Colorado within Region VIII. Its mission is to work with federal, state, county and local government organizations and community members to improve the status of Latinos in focused mission areas.*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
BOULDER COUNTY IMAGE**

**OFFICERS:**

**President** - Becky Rios

**1st Vice President** - Richard Shields

**2nd Vice President** - Katy Stewart

**Secretary** - Vacant

**Treasurer** - Michelle Masias

**TASK FORCE CHAIRS/MEMBERS:**

The following have been appointed as chairs of the standing task forces. Members will be contacted to join one of these task forces.

Social/Cultural - Michelle Masias

Education - Richard Shields

Employment - Becky Rios

Civil Rights - Katy Stewart

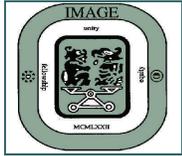
**NATIONAL OFFICERS:**

National President - John Griego

Region VIII Director - Joe Davalos

Colorado State Director - Tony Montoya

Special Assistant Office of the Chairman -  
Ramón Montoya



Boulder County Image  
#348  
637-B South Broadway  
Boulder CO 80305

## Membership Application Form

### Applicant Information (please print or type)

Name	
Home Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Employer Name	
Work Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Telephone (business)	
Telephone (Home)	
Fax	
E-Mail	

### Membership Information #7-06

Type of Membership: New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*(Membership dues are \$15.00 (\$8.00 for National dues, \$2.00 for State dues and \$5.00 for Chapter.)*

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